



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor
Marc Miller, Director

July 30, 2014

Brenda Haverfield
Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative
Two South Main Street
Winchester, IL 62694

RE: ROW Project 100
IDNR Project #1500539
County: Pike

Dear Ms. Haverfield:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for herbicide application in a transmission right-of-way in Pike County, Township 7 South, 2 West, Sections 29, 31 and 32. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The Cooperative plans to treat the right-of-way with herbicide using a Beam sprayer on an ATV. The state-listed threatened Timber Rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) is known to occur in the treatment area and could be adversely impacted by the action. The Department recommends the applicators follow all label directions, and be educated so that they can identify these snakes and allow them to move out of harm's way if encountered. Snakes should not be harmed, harassed, injured or sprayed, and any sighting of the Timber Rattlesnake should be reported to IDNR at 217-285-2221.

Alternatively, the cooperative could use mechanical removal between November and March while the snakes are inactive.

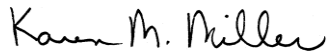
Consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is completed. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen M. Miller". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Karen M. Miller
Division of Ecosystems and Environment
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